

If this constitution is adopted, the General Assembly will have an enormous amount of work to do. It seems to me that we are pushing beyond reason and compressing the time in which we allow the General Assembly to operate in a field which is very, very important not only to the state government, but to individual citizens throughout the State.

I think that the approach that has been taken in the schedule is a reasonable one. We have allowed the General Assembly a reasonable amount of time to study the situation, look over the problems, and come up with those limitations and restrictions that it feels are reasonable and necessary.

I think the job that has been done thus far by this Convention is a highly commendable one and I do not see the need for, and I fear the evil of, impairing the quality of the work we have done by pushing the General Assembly to provide things which it may not have the time to study properly. For these reasons I would ask you to defeat the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I too would like to emphasize that if in fact the attorney general's office, or the utilities are concerned about the possible effect of this matter, that they can very well lay the problem before the General Assembly of this year. The problem is fresh in everybody's mind. They can do this if they want to as delaying legislation.

I started to do this yesterday on personal privilege and decided that I would rather not take the time then because it would have been in the abstract. However, I do it now.

I recall for you that there was an article in yesterday morning's newspaper about a public service commission hearing, at which time it was decided to put future telephone and gas and electric lines underground, and then the Public Service Commission chairman made a very significant statement. He said that the intention now is to put all lines underground.

I would like to think that perhaps the action of this Convention has had something to do with that broad general statement of Solomon Liss, who is chairman of that commission.

I strongly urge you to knock out this subsection A and worry not about the position of the utilities and the State, which

can very well take care of itself, and worry more about the people who are affected on a day-to-day basis by damages.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak?

Delegate Marvin Smith.

DELEGATE M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest to you, sir, that again as I have said when this matter was before the Committee of the Whole and before the Convention previously, that there is a responsible way in which to act. Certainly we are not acting in a responsible manner when we put into effect immediately, without opportunity for the General Assembly to study it, without opportunity for the General Assembly to think, a matter which can be costing the State of Maryland the number of dollars that is here proposed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

Delegate Johnson.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: I submit that it is entirely inconsistent to think that it is necessary, vitally necessary, I submit, to provide for reapportionment on a "guesstimate" figure, on a figure of the 1970 census that is not even available, to raise the salary of judges immediately, to immediately raise the salary of the legislature, and to immediately raise the salary of the governor, but delay the rights of the citizens of this State.

If you do not believe that that is inconsistent, then vote down the amendment. I submit to you that it would be consistent with good constitutional writing, and for the protection of the citizens of this State, to adopt this amendment, and I urge you to do so.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mitchell.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment. I think a cardinal principle of constitutional law is that your constitutional rights of personal privilege are immediate, and although there has been some erosion of that principle, I am opposed to any further erosion of it.

I do not think anyone's constitutional right should be postponed. I would say that I am for the raise in the judges' salaries. I think that is a principle of good government.

Certainly public servants are worthy of their hire and I think that Maryland law